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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 49

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MILITARY

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Soviet Foreign Relations. In Moscow the first week of December appeared as a relatively quiet one in terms of Soviet foreign policy. After Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange departed from Moscow on December 2, following a visit to Central Asia and an uneventful conversation with Khrushchev in Moscow, no important foreign visitors were announced as being present in Moscow. Likewise no Soviet leaders were abroad on foreign policy missions. The celebration of Soviet Constitution Day on December 5, a rare official holiday when speeches are not customarily made by Soviet leaders, contributed to the quiet atmosphere. The annual year-end session of the Supreme Soviet opened on December 6 without the listing of a foreign affairs agenda item.

Under the surface the most absorbing developments were the imminence of further diplomatic probes regarding Berlin and the continuation of the ideological conflict within the bloc.

The 5th Congress of the WFTU (World Federation of Trade Unions) opened in Moscow on December 4 and is scheduled to run through December 14. Reports in the Soviet press on the WFTU Congress proceedings suggested that the meeting was being devoted to routine expressions of support for various communist political objectives. Behind the scenes, however, it is understood that the Italian delegation has submitted amendments to the Congress' draft resolutions which embody the Italian conception of polycentrism. Presumably a Soviet-Chinese dialogue is also taking place at the WFTU meeting.

2. Ideological Debate. The tactic of Soviet propaganda at present seems to be to focus attention on what it wishes to present as the more creative aspects of the Party Congress, namely economic and social development and to gloss over the controversial aspects. However, having brought the Albanian question into the open, and having identified Communist China as a supporter of the Albanians, the Soviet propaganda machine is attempting to justify the position taken by Moscow, to castigate the Albanians, to indicate a little more specifically what the dispute is about, and, at the same time, to preserve the facade that the bloc is monolithic. This has been done mainly by printing accounts and excerpts of speeches by bloc communist party leaders who support the Soviet position. Nevertheless, during the week Pravda published a report of a speech made by the North Korean leader Kim Il-sen which made it clear that the North Koreans are neutral in the dispute. Although this is consistent with the position taken by Kim Il-sen during the 22nd CPSU Congress, the fact he was more explicit about North Korean neutrality in the dispute after he returned to Pyongyang, underlines the fact that the dispute may be becoming more serious.

Direct Soviet comment also has begun to appear on the subject. Such comment has shown Soviet sensitivity to the charges made in Hoxha's November 7 speech (which has of course not been published in the USSR) regarding Khrushchev's personal role and Soviet violations of the intra-party consultation procedures agreed upon at the 1957 and 1960 world communist party meetings.

3. Berlin/Germany. Soviet press comment on the President's interview with Adzhubei has been very limited to date. An Izvestiya article on Nov. 30

B5

MILITARY (ARMY)

12. [redacted]

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Boris H. Klosson

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